

FORUM:	Advisory Panel
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Introduction

In Ethiopia, civil war is one of the major issues happening. The Tigray War occurred from November 3rd, 2020 to November 3, 2022. This civil war was mainly between the federal government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front. Due to the civil war, more than 1.4 million people had to suffer from death, more than 20 million people required humanitarian assistance, and many people had to suffer from additional crimes such as rape, the massacre of civilians, forcible deportation, and ethnic cleansing.

Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration is the process that plays a crucial role in enhancing security and stability through the disarming of soldiers, their detachment from military establishments, and their subsequent integration into society, both socially and economically. This process is used in the United Nations to encourage nations that have civil war occurring to resolve the issue by signing the agreement of this process to bring peace to the country. Encouraging the government to sign an agreement can provide an opportunity for members of the armed forces to abandon the use of weapons and recover their life to everyday civilian life.

With the severe civil war occurring in Ethiopia, in November 2022, the federal government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front signed a peace agreement to end the civil war. They signed the Pretoria agreement, which calls for disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration. By signing the contract, it encourages the removal of weapons from people involved in the civil war, taking out people from the civil war, and helping people involved in the civil war to adapt socially and economically in the nation. By initiating the agreement, Ethiopian society was allowed to gain long-term peace and have a greater number of people who can contribute to developing the community.



Soldiers in Civil War

However, though the intention of this agreement is highly positive, there are a few challenges that these programs face. The biggest challenges are related to young soldiers involved in the fight. The



challenges include: curing young soldiers both physically and psychologically, reuniting young soldiers with their families, and providing new opportunities for young soldiers to get involved in the already existing society.

Regarding these issues, though there are various difficulties that the program handles, to bring peace and security to society, countries, including Ethiopia, are trying to implement this program most efficiently due to its massive advantages.

Background

The disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration process were implemented by the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) in 1989. They implemented this program as they believe this process to be the key element for peace operations. After the first implementation of this process, during the 1990s, both target groups and mandates increased rapidly. Furthermore, this movement increased in various areas, such as economics, reconstruction, and reconciliation.

The first Ethiopian civil war occurred when the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Demarcation Front entered the capital. This civil war occurred on September 12, 1974. This civil war continued until a coalition of rebel groups overthrew the government in 1991. Another civil war occurred on November 3, 2020. This civil war ensued between the federal government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front in the Tigray Region. This civil war ended on November 3, 2022. In total, due to the civil war, there were more than 1.4 million



Peace Agreement

people dead. Also, about 20 million people had to suffer because of the side effects of the civil war, such as lack of access to medical care, starvation, and home loss.

Due to many people involved in the civil war and soldiers being involved in the war, the Ethiopian government decided to implement the Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration process. By the year when the civil war ended, in November 2022, they decided to implement this process. As the number of people who suffered due to the civil war was too large, with the encouragement of the United Nations and the agreement of the federal government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front, they signed a peace agreement. However, though they have started, it is not being applied to their society



quickly. Though the process began, the process might take more than months or even years to be completed. Thus, the government of Ethiopia and the United Nations are trying to find efficient ways to implement the process quickly.

Problems Raised

Psychological Harm

In Ethiopia, many people are suffering due to psychological issues. The primary reason for this is the mental illnesses they gain after wars, such as depression and anxiety. A report expressed that more than 45.95 percent of people in Ethiopia suffer from mental issues. Since 2012, there have been actions taken by Ethiopia towards bridging the gap in their healthcare system by integrating the traditional healthcare practices with general medical services. However, as shown statistically, these services are not enough in a country where many wars occur. When a war happens, it is known that death, injury, sexual violence, malnutrition, and illness are some of the most consequences people must have. Due to these consequences, many suffer from traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and anxiety.



Psychological Issue due to Civil War

Despite the gradual implementation of Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration process, there are still many ex-combatants who are suffering with psychological challenges due to the impact of continuous war. As the treatment in Ethiopia is weak, it is hard to cure those suffering from the war. Thus, the ex-combaters may struggle to reintegrate into society without a proper psychological cure, leading to isolation.

Security Issue

The primary role of Demobilization, Disarmament, and Reintegration is to bring security and peace to the country by integrating them into the society, disarming combatants, and removing the soldiers from military structures. However, these actions might bring weakness to the country's security. The places where the armed groups previously controlled might face difficulties maintaining the site without using military force. Thus, disarmament and demobilization could create security vacuums where



armed groups mostly manage it. As a result, when the places lose control and lack security, it might lead to problems such as power struggles, increased crime rates, and anxiety. Ethiopia has more than 61.47 property crimes, such as vandalism and theft. However, if they lose security in specific areas, the crime rate will increase and will cause effects using the process.

International Actions

Ethiopian Institute of Peace (EIP)

The Ethiopian Institute of Peace is a non-governmental organization which was created in 1991 to provide help to the citizens of Ethiopia during their civil war. The civil war was a significant issue at that time, and many people suffered from the civil war. Thus, the organization was established to help those people.

They have been doing projects such as the Tigray, SEEK, and peaceful university communities to provide peace in the nation. The Tigray Project was intended to help people involved in wars or conflicts overcome health issues such as trauma and help them get back to society. To achieve this role, the European Union played a vital role where they provided fund support so that they could work out the project. The SEEK Project is a project funded by the European Union as well. Their primary goal for this project was to create peacebuilding, conflict management, and resolution capacities. Lastly, there was a peaceful university communities project which was the third program that Ethiopian Institute of Peace



Result of The Program of EPI

implemented. The peaceful university communities project was started in 2009 at Addis Ababa University and spread to other universities in 2013 and 2014. Also, with their work, in 2017, with the help of USAID, they could expand to other different universities in 2017. Until today, they are working in various universities. This

project's primary goal is to increase the culture of trust and collaborate with different cultures in the university through dialogue. Also, it provides systems that prevent conflict incidents to protect the people around them. The various programs the Ethiopian Institute of Peace offers in Ethiopia play a vital role in promoting the Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration process.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The International Organization for Migration is an organization that was established in 1951 to promote international cooperation on migration issues, bring feasible solutions for the problems



related to migration problems, and provide aid to migrants who need cures. Also, they have been working closely with governmental, intergovernmental, and non-governmental partners to help migrants who need help. “This organization operates in the four broad areas of migration management: Migration and Development, Facilitating Migration, Regulating Migration, and Addressing forced migration” (IOM UN Migration).

Moreover, currently, there are more than 59 million people who are displaced in their own country. Displaced people live in poor living conditions and have a hard time finding jobs. Due to the pandemic of Covid-19, this rate has increased massively during the past three years. Thus, the International Organization for Migration has played a vital role in protecting and helping displaced people gain jobs. Thus, their role could be played vitally in Ethiopia as well. By getting help from the International Organization for Migration, they can help ex-combatants reintegrate into society and gain jobs rather than being soldiers. This will bring a positive outcome in implementing the process.

Key Players

European Union (EU)

The European nation is a supranational union that brings peace, freedom, security, and justice between governments and citizens involved in the union. In 1992, due to the post-World War II, to integrate with different European nations around economically and socially, the union was created.

The European Union has been working hard to promote Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration of different countries around.

They have been helping nations by “Brining key actors together, linking short-term initiatives with long-term commitments, providing political and financial support to governments, partners, and processes, and through CSDP missions and operations” (EU Commission). Also, the European Union has reported that they aim to increase reintegration; they are trying to improve the number of voluntary returns and provide more extensive support for the returnees.



Countries of EU

Though the European Nation did not help Ethiopia directly, it has helped and supported countries such as Colombia to find peace, Nigeria to provide opportunities to get out from the conflict zones, the Philippines, the Central African Republic for helping implement peace agreements, and a few other



nations. As they have been assisting multiple other countries in gaining peace by implementing Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration, Ethiopia can likely get direct or indirect help from the European Union to implement the process effectively.

The power that the European Union has can provide massive help in implementing the process in Ethiopia. First is the financial support. Currently, the European Union is providing financial support to Ethiopia so that they can implement the process. Also, the European Union has been helping Ethiopia with health support. The European Union has been supporting aid related to health in Ethiopia due to large civil wars occurring. Using the assistance, they gain from here, Ethiopia can cure ex-combatants who have been suffering from war to get cured and reintegrate them into society with healthy conditions.

United States of America

Up to today, the US is the largest humanitarian donor to Ethiopia. They have been providing more than \$668 million for the necessary needs in Ethiopia, such as aid due to drought and civil wars. As the Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration process encourages peace in the nation, a large number of financial assistance that the US provides is used helping Ethiopia. Using the fund that US provides to Ethiopia, they use it to support agriculture, food, health, livelihood, multipurpose cash, nutrition, protection, shelter, sanitation, and hygiene assistance. For example, among many programs that US supported Ethiopia, the most famous program that they have supported was Ambassador's Special Self-Help Program and the Julia Taft Fund for Refugees. They have used 4.3 million dollars in more than 300 projects.



US Embassy in Ethiopia

For Ethiopia to reintegrate the people involved in the civil war, it is necessary to have a society accepting those people. Also, it is required to train those people in a way that they can help society. Since they are primarily people used to fighting in wars, they need to adapt to the developing community. Thus, it is vital to train them so that they can adapt efficiently. Through US funds, this training can be done by creating various education programs, tutors, and much more.

In addition, to achieve disarmament, Ethiopia must accomplish a variety of goals, including the reduction of non-strategic nuclear weapons, the diminution of the function of atomic weapons, the abolition of all nuclear weapons, and others. To accomplish these objectives, the US government's aid to Ethiopia is indispensable. Using the funds granted, they are encouraged to eliminate these weapons and develop alternative, more effective tools that can replace them.



Lastly, the main goal of demobilization is to support those ex-combatants to participate in the peace process actively. The fund plays a vital role in achieving this goal as well. To participate in the peace process, there need to be various activities made in Ethiopia so that people can participate. To make those activities, as Ethiopia lacks economically, the funds that the US provides play a vital role.

Possible Solutions

Though various actions are being taken to implement the process in Ethiopia, many issues are still happening. The reason could be a need for more government support, civilization, financial aid, low economic position, etc. These reasons hinder Ethiopia from implementing the process at a rapid speed. Though we cannot fully solve the ongoing issue directly, various effective ways to work together and mitigate the problems in Ethiopia still exist.

Training and Employment

To Promote Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration in Ethiopia, it is necessary to train ex-combatants and employ them to adapt to society. Ex-combats have been living most of their life fighting and using weapons. Thus, to make them adapt easier by collaborating with different nations and organizations, it is necessary to provide training programs so that they can adapt quickly and be more accessible to society. Moreover, it is essential to employ those ex-combatants in the community. Thus, encouraging the government of Ethiopia to higher employment is another method to promote the process much faster.



Training Program in Ethiopia

Health Support Program

After many wars soldiers experience, many soldiers will suffer from various mental diseases. Many soldiers feel angry or isolated from their family and friends after the war. Also, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), it has been reported that more than 10 percent of people who experience war will need to face severe mental diseases. However, until today, it has been shown that the healthcare system is considered poor. Thus, it is essential to provide a health support program in Ethiopia to implement the process.



They need to use the funds they gain from the United States or the funds they earn from various organizations to create a health support program. Specifically, it will be largely beneficial in implementing the program when the health support program is mainly for the ex-combatants. If these work positively, it will make it easier for the government to reintegrate ex-combatants into society.

Glossary

USAID

The United States Agency for International Development is an agency of the United States federal government that provides aid toward different countries for their recovery and development.

Disarmament

This is a method for the reduction of military forces and weapons. This is to bring peace or to reduce the power of a country that might become a superpower.

Demobilization

A method where the nation releases people from the armed forces to end a war or conflict to bring peace to the country.

Reintegration

Restoring ex-combatants into society after a war or conflict so that they can return to normal life.

Ex-Combinators

A person who has participated in a war but decided not to participate anymore.

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